
Researchers in Australia have found that tall people earn higher wages than their shorter counterparts, an extra ten centimetres in height means 3% higher wages. They also found that chubby people earn more than those who are skinnier. From Sydney here's Nick Bryant:

The long and short of this Australian report is that tall workers earn significantly more than their **vertically challenged counterparts**. A six foot man can expect a **windfall** of almost \$750 a year.

The researchers found there were practical reasons why the size gap **translated into** a pay gap. Tall people were sometimes more capable of performing certain physical tasks, like reaching high shelves. But the **discrepancy** is explained mainly by **discrimination**, the simple fact that society tends to look on tall people as more powerful and smarter, even when they're not.

The study from the Australian National University also found that slimmer workers **tend to get slimmer pay packets**. Fat men earn 5% more than their **slender** colleagues.

Nick Bryant, BBC News, Sydney

Vocabulary and definitions

the long and short of	a commonly used set expression said when you want to explain the general situation without giving details
vertically challenged	an indirect way of saying 'short'
counterparts	your counterpart is someone who is generally similar to you but different in a particular way (e.g. they come from a different country, or, as here, they are shorter than you)
windfall	here, money that you win or receive unexpectedly
translated into	here, meant, caused, resulted in
discrepancy	a distinct difference between two things that should be the same
discrimination	unfair treatment of someone because of prejudice about race, ethnicity, age, religion, gender or, as here, size
tend to get slimmer pay packets	usually earn less money
slender	slim, thin

More on this story: http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/2004_14_thu_02.shtml

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/05/090518_witn_tall.shtml